

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14-17, 22, 27, 31, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-2, 5-12, 14-17, 22, 27, 31, 34, 45, 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,170,950 to Yoshida.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

The Specification is amended and claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 15, 16, 37 (withdrawn and amended), 45, and 46 are amended. Claims 3, 4, 13, 18-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32, 33, 35-44, and 47-51 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14-17, 22, 27, 31, 34, 45 and 46 are pending in this application for further consideration. Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration in view of the remarks presented herein below.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Specification has been amended to clarify that the names of axes L1 and L2 are “bore axis” and “lens axis” respectively. In addition, the Specification is amended to describe that the component engaging portion is adapted to engage the fastener engaging portion of the component within the bore. Support for this amendment is found in Figs. 2A through 5, and 7A. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

All Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14-17, 22, 27, 31, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner maintains that the fastener defined in claim 2 refers to a screw, while the fastener defined in claim 5 refers to a ring (40). As claim 5 depends from claim 2, the scope of protection sought by claim 5, in specific connection to the fastener, allegedly is unclear. In addition, the Examiner refers to claim 10, which depends from claim 5, with the same rejection.

In connection with the alleged lack of clarity in claim 5, Applicants respectfully submit that nowhere in the specification is the fastener limited to being a monolithic element. By defining that the fastener comprises a member which had not been defined previously (i.e., the lens-face engaging member), it is evident that the fastener is in fact *not* limited to having a monolithic form. Thus, there is no contradiction between claims 2 and 5. In any event, claim 2 has been amended to define that the fastener *comprises* the various features of a screw, and claim 5 has been amended to define that the fastener “*further* comprises a lens-face engaging member...” (emphasis added) in order to clarify this point. Therefore, while claim 2 defines the fastener as comprising elements of a screw, claim 5 adds that the fastener further comprises elements of a ring; thus the fastener as defined in claim 5 comprises both a screw and a ring.

The rejection of claim 10 under 37 C.F.R. §112, second paragraph is moot in light of the above explanation in connection with claim 5. Moreover, Applicants submit that this issue raised by the Examiner does not exist in any remaining dependent claim.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner posits that the term “the edge” in claim 8 lacks antecedent basis. In this connection, Applicants submit that the term “the edge” does not

appear in claim 8. Rather, the claim refers to “the lens’s edge”. As the term “lens” does have antecedent basis, this rejection is traversed. In any event, claim 8 has been amended to refer to “an edge of the lens”. Applicants further submit that the amended phraseology is equivalent to the original phraseology of “the lens’s edge”, and has been entered only to increase readability of the claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2, 5-12, 14-17, 22, 27, 31 and 34, as amended, fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

All Claims Comply With 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 5-12, 14-17, 22, 27, 31, 34, 45, 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,170,950 to Yoshida. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons given below.

Claim 1 of the present application, as amended, defines a fastening arrangement for use with a curved lens having a first face, a second face, a bore passing between them, and a lens axis normal to the second face at the location of the bore. The bore has a longitudinal bore axis which is slanted to the lens axis. The fastening arrangement is adapted for attaching to the lens a component, which comprises a fastener engaging portion, at the first face of the lens. The fastening arrangement comprises a fastener having a lens-face engaging portion adapted to engage the second face of the lens, and a component engaging portion adapted to engage the fastener engaging portion of the component within the bore, and further adapted to enter the bore at the second face, at least when engaged by the fastener engaging portion. All the engaging portions of the fastener are designed so that, when the component, the lens, and the fastening

arrangement are assembled, the lens-face engaging portion is oriented along the second face of the lens.

US 6,170,950 to Yoshida (hereafter, "Yoshida") discloses an eyeglasses lens-installing apparatus including a connection member having a columnar member adapted to be inserted into a through-hole formed in the lens at a position in the vicinity of an edge of the lens, and a fastener having a fixing part to be fixed to the columnar member. The connection member and the fastener are constructed so that when the fixing part of the fastener is fixed to the columnar member, the lens is sandwiched between a part of the connection member positioned at a lens surface side thereof and a part of the fastener positioned at a lens surface side thereof, with the connection member and the fastener being in close contact with the lens.

In every embodiment disclosed in Yoshida, e.g., as illustrated in Figs. 1 through 42 and described in portions of the specification referring thereto, the eyeglasses lens-installing system is formed so that it is useful with a bore which passes between the first and second faces of the lens *and which has an axis coincident with, i.e., not slanted to, the axis which is normal to the second face at the location of the bore* (referred to as the "lens axis" in Claim 1 of the present application).

None of the embodiments disclosed in Yoshida are able to be used with a lens having a bore as defined in claim 1 such that "when the component, the lens, and the fastening arrangement are assembled, the lens-face engaging portion is oriented along [the] second face of the lens", i.e., parallel thereto, as required by claim 1. The Applicants submit that if the eyeglasses lens-installing system of Yoshida, according to any of the embodiments disclosed therein, were to be used a lens having a bore as defined in claim 1, no element of the system could be described as being oriented along the second face of the lens.

Claims 2, 5-12, 14-17, 22, 27, 31, and 34, which are dependent on claim 1, should be considered patentable, at least in view of the patentability of claim 1.

Claim 45, as amended, defines a component designed for attaching to a curved lens having a first face, a second face, a bore passing between them, and a lens axis normal to the second face at the location of the bore. The bore has a longitudinal bore axis which is slanted to the lens axis. The component comprises a fastener engaging portion designed for inter-engaging with a fastener entering the bore at the first face and for entering the bore at the second face, and a longitudinal axis normal to the first face. The component is designed so that, when the component and the lens are attached, the fastener has an interface oriented along the first face of the lens.

Claim 46, as amended, defines a component designed for attaching to a curved lens having a first face, a second face, a bore passing between them, and a lens axis normal to the second face at the location of the bore. The bore has a longitudinal bore axis which is slanted to the lens axis. The component comprises a fastener engaging portion designed for inter-engaging with a fastener entering the bore at the first face and aligning the fastener with the bore, and first and second lens-face engaging portions engageable respectively with the first and second faces so that, when the component and the lens are attached, the lens-face engaging portions are oriented along the first and second faces of the lens.

Applicants submit that claims 45 and 46 are similar to claim 1, in that each refers to an assembly which is adapted for use with a lens having bore between its faces whose axis is slanted to a lens axis which is normal to the second face at the location of the bore, but are directed towards a component rather than to a fastening arrangement, as in claim 1. Thus, claims 45 and 46 are not anticipated by Yoshida for at least the same reasons submitted above in

connection with claim 1. Specifically, a component as disclosed in Yoshida, according to any of the embodiments disclosed therein, used with a lens having a bore as defined in the perambulatory text of either claims 45 or 46, would not contain an element which could be described as being oriented along the second face of the lens, at least as described in the present application.

As pointed out in MPEP §2131, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. Thus, a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Because Yoshida fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1, 45 and 46, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn. Furthermore, claims 2, 5-7, 12, 14-17, 22, 27, 31, and 34 depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 11. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 2, 5-7, 12, 14-17, 22, 27, 31, and 34 are also allowable at least because of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 11, and the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

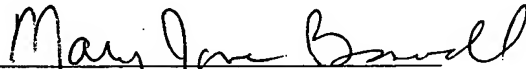
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests entry of the above amendments, reconsideration, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this Response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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